

PO-9-2 Southern Chandeleur Islands Restoration Plan

Coast 2050 Strategy – Regional strategy #9 – Dedicated delivery of sediment for marsh building.

Project Location – Region 1, Pontchartrain Basin, St. Bernard and Plaquemines Parishes, southern Chandeleur Islands.

Problem – The southern portion of the Chandeleur Island chain, including Breton Island, Grand Gosier Island, and Curlew Island, was severely impacted during the passage of Hurricane Georges in 1998. Storm impact assessments indicate that more than 90% of the subaerial habitat on the islands was destroyed.

Goals – This restoration plan is designed to rebuild and maintain barrier island habitat in the southern Chandeleur system. These habitats provide important areas for fish and wildlife resources including sea birds, fish and crustaceans.

Proposed Solution – High quality sand will be dredged from nearby deposits and placed unconfined on the islands to rebuild barrier habitat. Features on Curlew and Grand Gosier Islands will restore 129 acres of dunes, 225 feet wide and more than 5 feet high, 164 acres of supratidal habitat including beach and swales, and 476 acres of back barrier marsh 2 feet high and 975 feet wide. Four miles of sand fencing will be installed and 935 acres of dune and marsh vegetation will be planted. On Breton Island, the land created with beneficial use material will be maintained and improved with the installation of 2 miles of sand fencing and the planting of 206 acres of dune and marsh vegetation.

Project Benefits - The islands are expected to accrete for the first six years as they recover from Hurricane Georges but during the next 14 years, they will begin to erode. Over the project life of 20 years, the islands will show a net increase of 145 acres of dune, 178 acres of supratidal habitat, and 412 acres of back barrier marsh over the future without project scenario. This new habitat will provide a platform for the islands to migrate onto during storm events.

Project Costs – The total fully funded cost is \$63,923,400 and the fully funded first cost is \$63,529,500.

Risk/Uncertainty and Longevity/Sustainability – There would be a moderate degree of risk associated with this project because of the uncertainty of hurricane and concern about construction. The project should continue providing benefits more than 20 years after construction because projects features will introduce more than ten million cubic yards of high quality sand into the system.

Sponsoring Agency and Contact Persons

U.S. Army, Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District

Gregory Miller, (504) 862-2310

gregory.b.miller@mvn02.usace.army.mil

Christopher Alfonso, (504) 862-2401

christopher.d.alfonso@mvn02.usace.army.mil



Project Vicinity*

*Please note this map depicts only the vicinity of the candidate restoration project, not the actual project area.

Data Source:
U.S. Geological Survey
National Wetlands Research Center
Coastal Restoration Field Station

LA Department of Natural Resources
Coastal Restoration Division

Map Date: November 14, 2001
Map ID: 200204136

Image Data:
1990 SPOT Imagery

CWPPRA PPL11
Region 1

**Southern Chandeleur Islands
Restoration Plan
(PO-09-2)**